Defence Agreements with Russia

2053. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Defence Agreements/mutual commitments negotiated with Russia during the recent visit of Russian President;

(b) whether Russia has promised to provide fighter/bomber aircrafts to India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Russian President HE. Mr. V. Putin visited India from December 3.5.2004. During the visit both sides reaffirmed the strong ongoing defence ties and agreed to deepen them further.

(b) and (c) India's defence relation with Russia is a continuing relationship. Proposals for cooperation in the supply and production of military equipment were discussed, but, no specific agreement with Russia was signed regarding supply of these equipments.

U.S. defence aid to Pakistan

2059. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.S. Government proposed to give 300 million Dollar defence aid to Pakistan; and

(b) whether the Government of India is fully prepared to meet the challenges posed by Pak in view of the U.S. aid to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The United States (U.S.) Government has informed the U.S. Congress on 16th November 2004 of it's intentions to finalise a arms sale totalling $ 1.2 billion to Pakistan.

(b) The Armed forces are fully prepared to meet these challenges posed by Pakistan in view of the U.S. arms sale to Pakistan. The modernisation and equipment procurement plans of the Armed forces are being pursued vigorously.